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**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEW MEXICO**

ROBERT LEE)
Plaintiff,)
vs.)
THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,)
DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR, BUREAU)
OF INDIAN AFFAIRS, PUEBLO)
PINTADO COMMUNITY SCHOOL)
JOHN DOES 1-10, and XYZ)
CORPORATIONS 1-10)
Defendants)

**COMPLAINT FOR RECOVER DAMAGES FOR PERSONAL INJURIES
ARISING UNDER THE FEDERAL TORT CLAIMS ACT PURSUANT TO
28 U.S.C. § 2671 ET SEQ.**

Plaintiffs by and through his Attorneys, William R. Keeler, Esq. (Keeler & Keeler, LLP.) and for his complaint against the Defendants, United States of America, Department of Interior and Bureau of Indian Affairs, and Pueblo Pintado Community School and for his cause of action, states and alleges:

1. This is an action pursuant to the Federal Tort Claims Act, 28 U.S.C. § 2671, et seq. (hereafter the “FTCA”) for money damages for personal injuries to Robert Lee as a result of negligence at Pueblo Pintado Community School on or about February 9, 2013.

1 2. At all relevant times, Robert Lee, an unmarried man and a resident of Crownpoint,
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New Mexico.

3 3. Defendant The United States of America is a sovereign nation.
4 4. Defendant United States of America, the Department of the Interior (“DOI”) and the
5 Bureau of Indian Affairs (“BIA”), are all federal agencies, who are amenable to suit pursuant to
6 the Federal Tort Clams Act (“FTCA”).

7 5. At all relevant times, Defendant Pueblo Pintado Community School was under the
8 control of the Department of Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs and the United States of
9 America.

10 6. Defendants XYZ Corporations 1-10 are fictitious names for corporations and/or
11 businesses which may or may not exist, subject to the jurisdiction of this Court that may have
12 negligently contributed to the injuries suffered by Mr. Lee. Leave of this Court will be sought to
13 amend the pleadings if, and when, the existence and names of these fictitious entities are
14 discovered.

16 7. Defendants John Does 1 – 10 are individuals that may or may not exist, subject other
17 the jurisdiction of this Court that may have negligently contributed to the injuries suffered by Mr.
18 Lee whose names are presently unknown. Plaintiff will seek leave of court to amend the
19 Complaint when the true names of these Defendants have been ascertained.

20 8. This court has jurisdiction over the parties and subject matter Pursuant to 28 U.S.C.
21 §1346 (b) and the Constitution of the United States.

22 9. All acts and omissions within the State of New Mexico, making the venue proper
23 over the parties and claims for relief in the United States District Court for the District of New
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1 Mexico 28 U.S.C. § 1391(e), and all events complained of herein occurred in the vicinity of
2 Torreon, Sandoval County, New Mexico.

3 10. A federal form 95 asserting the claim of plaintiffs detailed herein was sent on the
4 18th day February, 2014 via certified mail to U.S. Department of Interior Assistant Solicitor,
5 Navajo Regional Office BIA, and Bureau of Indian Affairs Eastern Navajo Agency. The
6 Assistant Solicitor; the claim was denied by Patricia Reedy, Acting Regional Solicitor, through a
7 letter dated 22 July, 2014.

8 11. A reconsideration letter with supported documentation was mailed certified mail to
9 Patricia Reedy, Acting Regional Solicitor with return receipt requested on November 6, 2014.

10 12. A second denial letter was received on December 8, 2014.

11 13. Process may be served, pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 4(i)(1) by (a) delivering a copy of
12 the summons and complaint by registered or certified mail to the United States Attorney for the
13 District of New Mexico Damon P. Martinez c/o Civil Process Clerk, whose address is P.O. Box
14 607, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87102, (b) by sending a copy of the summons and complaint by
15 registered or certified mail to the Hon. Eric H. Holder, Jr. Attorney General of the United States
16 Department of Justice, 950 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington, D.C. 20530-0001, (c) by
17 sending a copy of the summons and complaint by registered or certified mail to the Hon. Ken
18 Salazar, Secretary, United States Department of Interior, 1849 C. St. NW, Washington, DC
19 20240, (d) by sending a copy of the summons and complaint by registered or certified mail to the
20 United States Department of the Interior, Office of the Solicitor, Southwest Regional Office, 505
21 Marquette Avenue NW, Suite 1800, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87102 (e) by sending a copy of
22 the summons and complaint by registered or certified mail to Pueblo Pintado Community
23 School, HCR 79 Box 80 Cuba, New Mexico 87013.
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1 14. At all times material hereto, Defendant United States of America via the Department
2 of Interior and/or the Bureau of Indian Affairs operated, managed and maintained Pueblo Pintado
3 Community School.

4 15. On February 9, 2013 Plaintiff Robert Lee was attending a school sponsored
5 function at Pueblo Pintado Community School.

6 16. As Robert Lee was walking through the Pueblo Pintado Community School parking
7 lot to attend a school sponsored event when he slipped on ice and snow and fell.

8 17. Mr. Lee sustained serious injuries including, but not limited to, a distal femur
9 fracture with displacement and right frozen shoulder.

10 18. The severities of Robert Lee's injuries have left him permanently disabled and he
11 has been unable to return to work since the incident.

12 19. These injuries, and their sequelae, have required Mr. Lee to secure necessary
13 medical treatment, and Mr. Lee, or subrogated parties, have had to incur the reasonable costs of
14 that medical treatment and transportation, to and from the treatment facilities, and will continue
15 to do so in the future.

16 20. Pueblo Pintado Community School holds itself open to the public and Pueblo
17 Pintado Community School has a duty to exercise ordinary care to keep its premises, including
18 the parking lot, safe for use by visitors such as Mr. Lee, whether or not a dangerous condition is
19 obvious.

20 21. Pueblo Pintado Community School breached its duty to exercise ordinary care to
21 keep its premises safe by failing to inspect the premises for the dangerous condition in its
22 parking lot, failing to warn visitors such as Robert Lee of the hazardous conditions in its parking
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1 lot, and failed to take the steps which would be necessary to make the parking area safe for
2 visitors such as Mr. Lee.

3 22. As a direct and proximate cause of breach of duty by Pueblo Pintado Community
4 School to use ordinary care to keep its premises safe, Mr. Lee sustained serious and permanent
5 injuries and incurred medical bills as a result of the medical treatments for his injuries.

6 23. As a direct and proximate cause of Pueblo Pintado Community School's breach of
7 duty to use ordinary care to keep its premises safe, Mr. Lee will continue to suffer from the
8 injuries for the rest of his life.

9 WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs pray for judgment against all Defendants be awarded in an
10 amount reasonable necessary to compensate the Mr. Lee's damages and injuries as follows:

- 11 1. For past and future compensable damages and costs;
12 2. Costs incurred by caregivers and for transportation to and from medical
13 appointments;
14 3. For taxable cost as allowed;
15 4. Pain and suffering;
16 5. Medical costs;
17 6. Lost wages;
18 7. Loss of enjoyment of life;
19 8. General and special damages;
20 9. Attorney's fee and costs;
21 10. Other damages the Court deems proper

Respectfully Submitted,

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